

**TESTIMONY OF  
ROBERT C. HARTLEY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Monday March 17, 2014**

**SB 437, An Act Concerning Licensure for Genetic Counselors**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center supports passage of **SB 437, An Act Concerning Licensure for Genetic Counselors** as these highly skilled individuals support the high quality healthcare delivered by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Saint Francis uses highly trained genetic counselors in its treatment of patients with a variety of genetic disorders. These specialized healthcare personnel deliver a unique combination of information to our patients in a manner that helps them understand the complexities and risks associated with their particular genetic disorder. Proper use of these genetic counselors empowers the patient and their family to make informed decisions regarding genetic risks and testing that is consistent with their religious, cultural and personal beliefs. Equally important, timely use of the information provided by nationally certified genetic counselors trained at accredited institutions can actually reduce healthcare costs significantly by shaping the genetic testing performed through a comprehensive assessment of a patient's medical and family history.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.